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the early explorations, growth of political institutions and the birth of the Australian Commonwealth. One of the best chapters tells of the great work of Leichhardt and of the mystery of his last exploring expedition which was lost in the desert, in 1848.

Corallogene Phosphat-Inseln Austral-Oceaniens und ihre Produkte. Bearbeitet von Carl Elschner. 120 pp. Maps, ills. Max Schmidt, Lübeck, 1913. Mk. 8.75. 10 x 7.

The principal interest of this highly important monograph is that it presents a study of the phosphates of the Pacific islands carefully elaborated for the information of the agricultural chemist and with such discussion of the recent geology of these deposits as may serve as a guide for commercial exploration. Half of the volume is occupied with a study of Nauru and Paanapa, the two richest deposits now commercially exploited. We have very scant information as to these islands and this is a welcome addition. Pursuing his phosphate theme the author presents briefer records of Angaur in the Palau Group, of Makatea in the Tuamotu. He has fallen into a linguistic error when he defines Makatea as signifying "white eye?" through misreading maka as mata eye; maka is a good Polynesian word for stone and Makatea really means "white rock," recognizable as a good descriptive name by those of us who have seen the sun light up its white cliffs. These are all islands of upheaval and the phosphate is more or less advanced in the chemical and pressure changes which make the beds a theme of geological inquiry. The islands of recent phosphate formation, to which he devotes a chapter, are the guano islands. Since the book is devoid of an index or even a table of contents it will not be amiss to present a list of these islands: Baker, Howland, Phœnix Group, Sydney, Malden, Starbuck, Christmas, Fanning, Flint, Jarvis, Browse, Lacepède, Laysan, Cornwallis, and Clipperton. Nauru is abundantly illustrated with excellent half tone plates and a well executed map contoured in tint.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

EUROPE

The Northmen in Britain. By E. Hull. 256 pp. Ills., index. T. Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1914 (?) \$1.50. 8½ x 6½.

A good, popular account of the two great streams of northern invasion, Norse and Danish, which met and battled in the ninth, tenth and eleventh centuries, on the shores of Great Britain and Ireland where both nations took deep root, built cities and absorbed much of the commerce of the country. Norse sources are chiefly used in the narrative.

Les Pyrénées Méditerranéennes. Étude de Géographie Biologique. Par Maxmilien Sorre. 508 pp. Map. A. Colin, Paris, 1913. Fr. 12. 10 x 61%.

By the term Mediterranean Pyrenees the author designates the extreme eastern part of the Pyrenees, including the lower hills and plains on the eastern and northern slopes. The northern boundary corresponds to the, formerly political, but now only linguistic, boundary between Languedoc and Catalonia; the southern boundary is a climatic one: it is identical with that of the moist regions characterized by the deciduous forests. Although composed of a number of individual natural regions bearing very ancient names, the country as a whole may be designated as the region where Mediterranean and Pyrenean influences meet and blend. The biological purpose of the book is the description of those species which determine the individual geographical character of the country. After a study of the landscape as a whole, the different types of climate and vegetation are examined, and then the forms of life are compared with these natural conditions in order to ascertain the correlation and interdependence between them. The types of human life are also studied in their relation to the same conditions.

The combined influence of altitude and distance from the sea have pro-